

Blacksnake Creek Stormwater Separation Improvement Project

A Community Based Project with Multiple Benefits

WHAT: The Blacksnake Creek Stormwater Separation Improvement Project, now in preliminary design, will transport a portion of the stormwater runoff in the Blacksnake Creek watershed directly to the Missouri River.

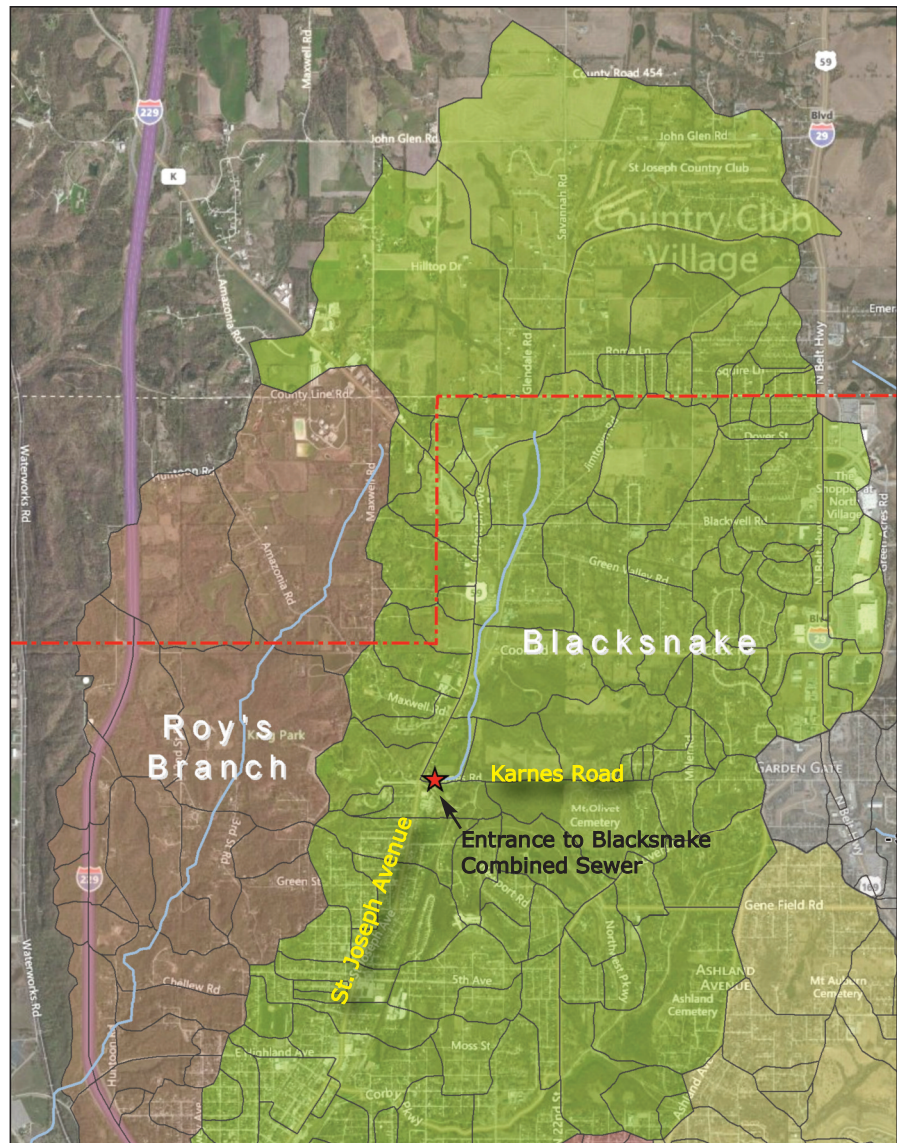
Currently, Blacksnake Creek and stormwater runoff from streets, roofs, and other areas is piped along with wastewater (sewage) in a large, 100-year old pipe known as the Blacksnake Creek Combined Sewer. The existing pipe is not large enough to carry all the stormwater runoff and sewage to the Water Protection Facility (wastewater treatment plant) and it overflows to the Missouri River after most rain storms.

The new project may use a combination of new pipes, tunnels, stream channels, and other methods to convey the stormwater flow directly to the Missouri River. This will reduce the quantity of water in the existing sewer during storms and the quantity of combined stormwater and wastewater that overflows to the river.

There will be potential opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure and other public amenities into the project, creating multiple community benefits for the city extending beyond the main objective of routing stormwater flow directly to the Missouri River.

WHERE: The project is currently in the preliminary design phase, therefore, the specific alignment of the Blacksnake Creek Stormwater Separation Improvement Project is not yet determined. The focus of the project will be in the Blacksnake Creek watershed in the northern part of the city.

City representatives will be meeting with the public through various public meetings to gather feedback from the community at several points in the design process.



WHY: The project is mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources as part of the City's combined sewer overflow Abatement Order. The project goals and benefits include:

- Reducing the amount of combined sewer overflows improves the water quality of our streams, lakes, and rivers and improves public health. St. Joseph residents say these items are a priority.
- The Blacksnake Creek Stormwater Separation Improvement Project will meet regulatory requirements and improve system reliability.
- The Blacksnake Creek Stormwater Separation Improvement Project will redirect stormwater from the Blacksnake Creek watershed to the Missouri River, reducing stormwater into the combined sewer system and reducing sewer overflows. It is less expensive to transport the creek water directly to the Missouri River than building other facilities to capture and treat the water at the Water Protection Facility. The stormwater separation project will also eliminate the daily cost of treating up to 2 million gallons per day of dry weather creek water at the treatment facility, benefitting all rate payers.

WHEN: Preliminary design for the Blacksnake Creek Stormwater Separation Improvement Project is underway. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2016 and be completed in early 2019.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT: This will be a significant community based construction project with heavy civil equipment required to complete the construction in the Blacksnake Creek watershed. Community meetings will be held with the public throughout the design and construction process, and potential community benefits will be considered.

HOW: This project will be funded through City wastewater user fees. Adjacent property owners will NOT be asked to pay any assessment for the improvement project. The project will have city-wide benefits to water quality, public health and regulatory compliance.

WHO: For more information, or if you have questions or concerns contact:

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